THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

102. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions for holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies every five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India in its 170th Report on 'Reform of Electoral Laws' which has already been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on October 28,1999, has stated that desired goal of one election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in every five years cannot be achieved overnight. It has to be achieved in stages. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution also took up the matter but did not give any specific recommendation on the subject.

Circuit Bench of Rajasthan High Court of Kota

103. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):.Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a forceful agitation relating to establishment of a circuit Bench of Rajasthan High Court at Kota;

(b) if so, the demands made in the agitation;

(c) since when the agitation is going on; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to redress the grievances?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):(a) to (c) Government is not aware of any agitation for setting up of a Circuit

Bench of the Rajasthan High Court at Kota. However, requests have been received from the Abhibhashak Parishad, Kota, in the matter.

(d) The matter regarding establishment of Benches of High Courts at places away from the principal seats is considered by the Central Government only when a complete proposal is received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for setting up of a Circuit Bench of the Rajasthan High Court at Kota.

BCI demands for transfer of cases

104. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bar Council of India has demanded from the Chief Justice of India that cases be transferred when family members of judges are practising in cases under the adjudication of the said judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Bar Council of India has informed that at a joint meeting with the Chairmen of State Bar Councils and Presidents of High Court Bar Associations, it passed the following resolution on 8/9-2-2003:—

"It is Further Resolved that in matters of selection of Judges, merit should be the paramount consideration and that the policy of transfer should continue as it promotes the national integration and gives the judiciary a pan Indian approach and also serves the purpose of enabling the judges to be posted at places other than the places where their children or near relations practise."

The Bar Council has also informed that it has not demanded transfer of cases from the courts where relatives of judges are practising.